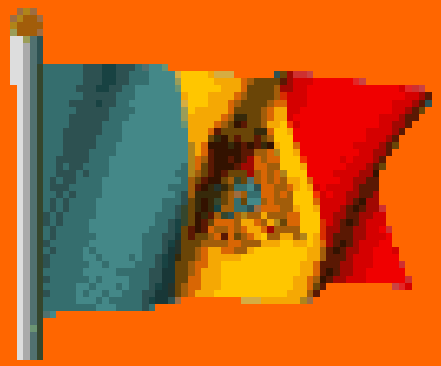
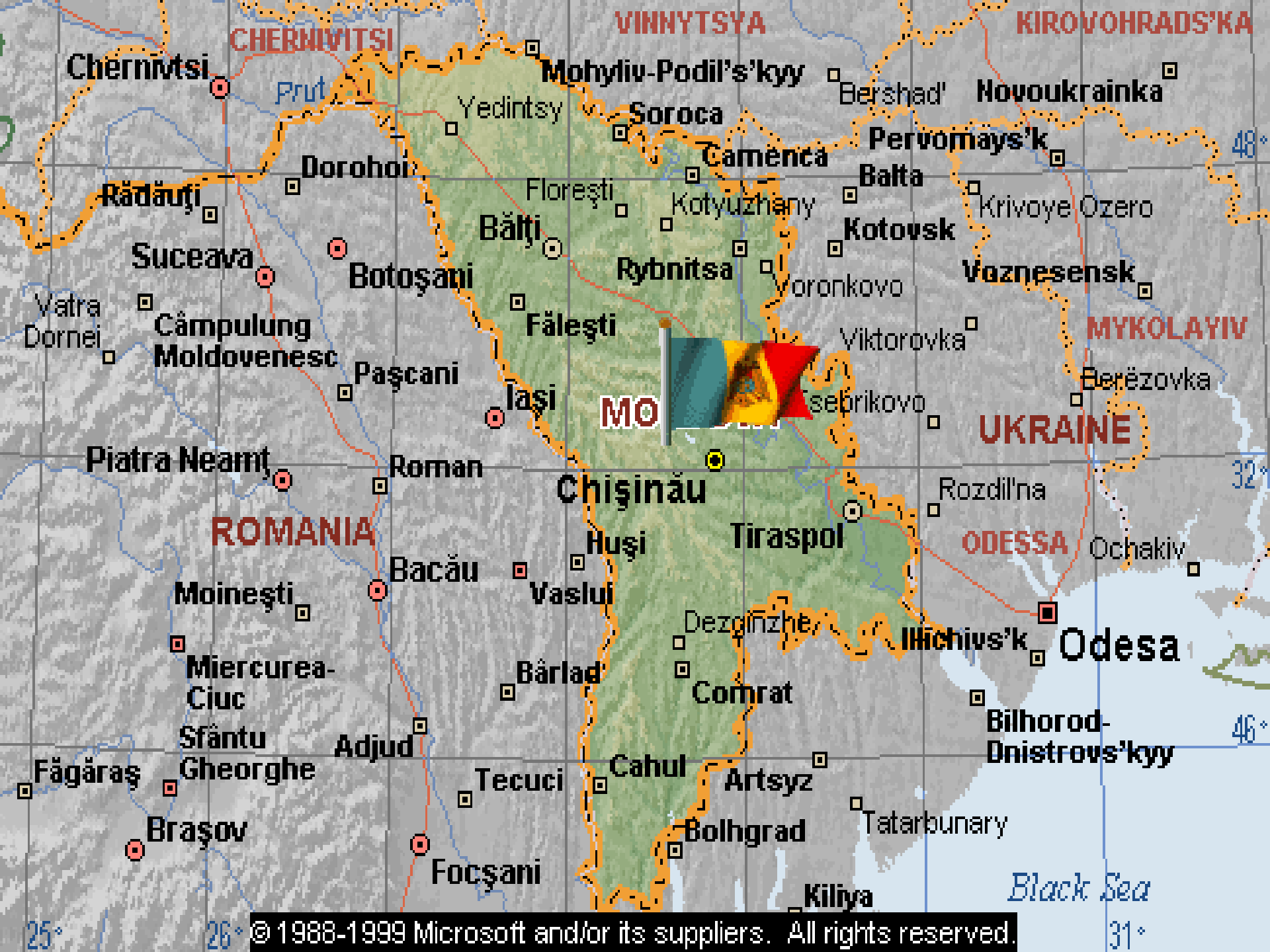
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING



MOLDOVA

(Republica Moldova)



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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Moldova

Capital: Chisinau

Population: 4,460,838 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: PM Ion Ciubic

Official language(s) Moldovan, Russian

Economy: Agricultural-Mixed capitalist

Religions: Eastern Orthodox (98%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None

International Airport:Chisnau

Flights from Frankfurt: Air Moldova International

Other methods of arrival: Road/rail

U.S. Embassy address:Strada Alexei Mateevici 103, Chisnau Tel: 373-2-23-37-72; FAX: 373-2-23-30-44..

Transportation: Public transportation: Poor.

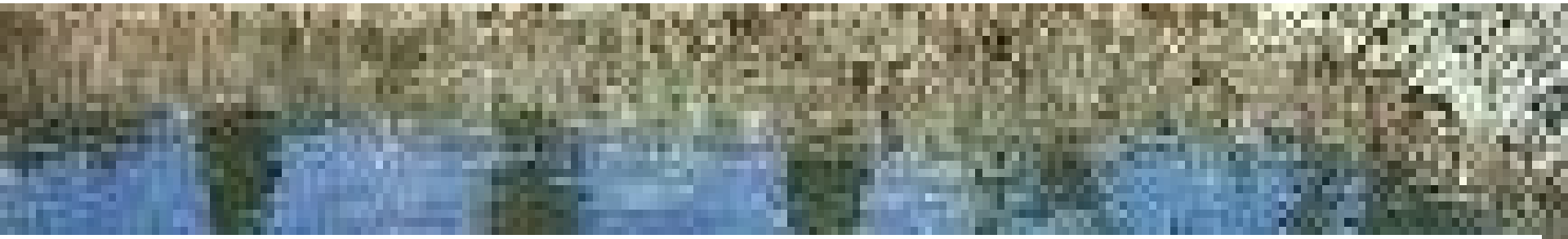
Urban Roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Moldova's infrastructure consists mainly of two-lane roads, unevenly maintained and unlighted. Caution should be taken to prevent collisions with agricultural vehicles, and travel before dawn and after dusk should be avoided if at all

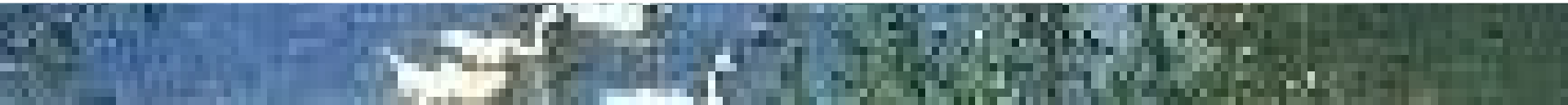
ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Personnel on leave require passport and visa. Visa must be obtained in advance of arrival from a Moldovan embassy or consulate. Visas are not issued at Moldova's land border with Ukraine. Official travelers may obtain visas in Washington, Moscow, Bucharest, and Kiev. Visas are required of all American citizens traveling to (or transiting) Moldova, with the exception of those traveling on diplomatic passports. The visa costs $45. All official travel to Moldova requires DoS approval and extensive internal coordination within DoD. The 30-day lead time must be met.



Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is

Duty-free entry for used personal effects:



HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Firearms are prohibited in flight and at airport. Travelers may have difficulty finding public telephones and receiving and making international and local calls. Losses have been reported from international letter and package mail, both of which are subject to a customs inspection before delivery. "Express" mailing services such as DHL and Federal Express are available in Chisinau, although prices are expensive in most cases, and shipments arrive from (or reach) the U.S. in no less than five (5) business days.

Amembassy operating hours are 0900-1800L Mon-Fri. Amembassy observes US and the following local holidays: Orthodox Christmas and Easter, dates vary; 8 Mar; Easter of the Saints, one week after Orthodox Easter; 1, 8 May; 27-31 Aug; and 24 Dec.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Declare all currency. Exchange currency only at authorized banks and hotels. Moldova is generally a cash-only economy. Travelers checks and credit cards are accepted only at a few select locations in Chisinau.

Rate: Approximate: Russian Rouble for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, industrial

Availability of medical services: Poor.

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Moldova. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed

Status of hospitals: Poor.

Health Precautions: Medical care in Moldova is limited. There is a severe shortage of basic medical supplies, including disposable needles, anesthetics, antibiotics, and vaccines. Any person applying for a visa for a stay of more than three months must present a certificate showing that the individual is HIV negative. The certificate must be in both Russian and English and valid for three months from the date of medical examination and special test. Rabies vaccinations may be

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended)..

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel traveling to Moldova. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels.

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Armed conflict and civil unrest continue in the Dniester Region. Street demonstrations and other disturbances related to outstanding disputes may occur without warning. The US Embassy in Chisinau advises that only essential travel should be undertaken into or through the Transnistria region. There are frequent checkpoints in Transnistria, manned by armed, young and inexperienced paramilitary units who are not under the control of the Moldovan government and whose members rarely understand English. Tourists and truckers may be subject to extortion or robbery at checkpoints.

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Moldova has experienced a rise in crime, due to worsening economic conditions, increasing organized criminal activity, and more frequent travel by foreigners to Moldova. The possibility of becoming a victim of violent and/or street crime is significant. Many Americans have reported theft of money and small valuables from hotel rooms and local apartments. Cases of breaking and entering into homes and offices have increased as well. It is wise for travelers to exercise the same precautions with regard to personal safety and protection of valuables in Chisinau that they would in any major U.S. city. Train and bus service are below Western standards and an increasing number of U.S. citizens have been victims of crime such as thefts, while traveling on international trains to and from Moldova. A car Moldova is strict on: Drugs. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Moldova are strict and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and heavy fines.
or Consulate

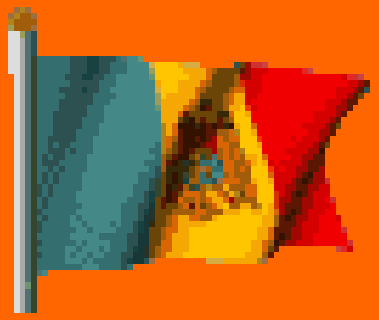
WEATHER

http://cnn

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Uniforms of any type, including flight clothing, are prohibited. Clothes for US temperate zone are suitable.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for



MOLDOVA